

Amendments to the Claims: This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) Computing means having a software agent for representing a person in the virtual environment, the software agent comprising:

one or more application specific modules each of which represents application specific features of the agent;

a core module which contains one or more functional groups which define common or generic features of the agent, said features at least in part facilitating inter-agent communication, such that inter-agent communication supports communication between a combination of the one or more application specific module and the core module.

2. (Original) Computing means as claimed in Claim 1 wherein, the functionality of the functional group comprises one or more of the following, belief management, user profile management, agent-user communication, module management, basic generic reasoning tools and/or between agent module to module communication.

3. (Currently Amended) Computing means as claimed in claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~ wherein, the core module is provided with method means which provide the one or more functional groups.

4. (Currently Amended) Computing means as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1 wherein, the functionality of the functional group correspond to a set of labels.

5. (Currently Amended) Computing means as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1 wherein, communication means are provided to facilitate communication between application specific modules in different agents.

6. (Currently Amended) Computing means as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1 wherein, the core module acts as an interface between external devices and ~~the~~ at least one application specific module.

7. (Currently Amended) Computing means as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1 wherein ~~the~~ a specification of message conversation protocols and ~~the~~ a specification of primitive message semantics are implemented in separate modules.

8. (Original) Computing means as claimed in claim 7 wherein, the core module provides primitive semantics for defining communication.

9. (Currently Amended) Computing means as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1 wherein, the one or more application specific ~~module(s)~~ modules specify message conversation protocols.

10. (Currently Amended) Computing means as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1 wherein, the software agent is further provided with an inter-module communications means.

11. (Original) Computing means as claimed in claim 10 wherein, said inter-module communications means connects together all application specific modules and the core module in the agent.

12. (Currently Amended) Computing means as claimed in claim 10 ~~or claim 11~~ wherein, the inter-module communication means is provided with one or more function calls.

13. (Currently Amended) Computing means as claimed in ~~any one of claims 10 to 13~~ claim 10 wherein, the inter-module communication means provides for communication between functions in different modules of an agent.

14. (Currently Amended) Computing means as claimed in claim ~~any one of claims 10 to 14~~ wherein, the inter-module communication means provides for mapping a request from a first module to a method means in a second module.

15. (Currently Amended) Computing means as claimed in ~~claim 14~~ wherein, said request from said first module comprises a label specifying a function and said method means in a second module corresponds to the specified function.

16. (Currently Amended) Computing means as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1 wherein, the agent further comprises an address resolving means for resolving an address in a message to one of said plurality of modules.

17. (Currently Amended) Computing means as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1 wherein said agent further comprises a transfer means for transferring messages from said resolved modules such that the messages are interleaved to allow an agent to be simultaneously involved in multiple conversations with other agents.

18. (Currently Amended) Computing means as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1 wherein, the computing means is one or more computers.

19. (Currently Amended) Computing means as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1 wherein, the computing means is one or more personal digital assistants.

20. (Currently Amended) Computing means as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1 wherein, the computing means is one or more mobile communications devices.

21. (Currently Amended) Computing means as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1 wherein, the computing means is distributed across a plurality of computing devices.

22. (Currently Amended) A method of performing functions in the software agent of the computing means defined in claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 21~~, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a request specifying a function;

mapping said request to a module method corresponding to the specified function; and

invoking said module method.

23. (Original) The method of claim 22 wherein, said request comprises a label specifying said function.

24. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~claim 22 or claim 23~~ claim 24 wherein, the step of invoking said module comprises the steps of:

receiving a request comprising a label;

looking up the label in a table; and

calling a method corresponding to the label.

25. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~any of claims 22 to claim 24~~ claim 24 wherein the step of invoking said module further comprises the step of selecting a highest priority method corresponding to the label.

26. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~any of claims 22 to 25~~ claim 24 wherein, the method of invoking said module further comprises the step of returning a value to ~~the an~~ an originator of the request.

27. (Currently Amended) A method of inter-agent communication between software agents of the computing means defined in claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 21~~, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a message comprising an address from a first agent;

resolving said address to one of a plurality of modules in a second, receiving agent; and

transferring the message to the resolved module.

28. (Original) The method of claim 27 wherein said address specifies the module.

29. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 27~~claims 27 and 28~~ wherein, the method further comprises the steps of communicating with an external device by:

identifying the device that a user is employing;

mapping said device to a set of media types; and

initiating the delivery of media to said device responsive to the mapped set.

30. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~claims 27 to~~ claim 29 wherein, the method further includes the step of limiting the set of media types based on user preferences.

31. (Currently Amended) A computer program comprising program instructions for causing a computer to operate a software agent as claimed in claim 1~~any of claims 1 to 17~~.

32. (Currently Amended) A computer program comprising program instructions for causing a computer to perform the method of claim 22~~claims 22 to 26~~.

33. (Currently Amended) A computer program comprising program instructions for causing a computer to perform the method of claim 27~~claims 27 to 30~~.